

BOE Meeting, September 20th, 2023

Superintendent's Remarks

Thank you President Mansell, and good evening. I welcome everyone back for our new school year.

There are some exciting things going on around the district in September:

- Rye Neck's K through 5 teachers are implementing the Eureka2 Math curriculum after last year's multi-program pilot by teachers across both Daniel Warren and FE Bellows.
- The Office of Special Services and staff has expanded Integrated Co-Teaching opportunities at DW and we now have ICT across all grade levels.
- New enrichment experiences for students at DW include Expanded Noon Pursuits; at Bellows there are workshops involving Crime Scene Forensics and Investigations, Robotics and Coding Challenges, Stop Motion Film making and Bridge Building and a new third grade theater residency.
- Middle School students have access to Introduction to Science Research and the One World Sustainability project-based learning program.
- New offerings at the HS level include an Introduction to Business course and an Introduction to Psychology course. The district's applications for the Seal of Civic Readiness for social studies and the Visual and Graphic Arts Pathways were approved by the NY State Education department, expanding opportunities.
- Our counseling department has provided new clubs: the Kindness Ambassadors for MS students and JCK Ambassadors for the HS. Most clubs begin in October
- Making a return appearance after a COVID pause, the Library Cafe, housed in the cabinets in that corner of this room, opens for MS/HS students in October
- And, our Athletic Department kicked off the year with its Hall of Fame ceremony on September 9th, honoring the class of 2014's three-sport athlete Thomas Pipolo. Currently, 275 varsity and JV, and 160 modified student athletes on 23 teams are participating in fall sports.

Our Strategic Planning mentioned by President Mansell in August and in the September issue of Value Ed is underway. Rye Neck has partnered with Judy Wilson, an experienced educator and administrator, notably having served as the superintendent of the Princeton and Woodbury school districts in New Jersey. Judith Wilson LLC has been in operation since 2014 as an educational consultant and planning facilitator. In searching for the right person to help with our efforts I spoke with colleagues who have undertaken strategic plans and they regard Judy highly.

In particular, they cite her level of communication and commitment, the comprehensiveness of her work, and the degree of specificity to which our planning will be tailored to the needs of Rye Neck.

The process will be conducted during this first semester and will include professional staff, administrators, trustees, parents, students, and community members as well as surveys for various groups. Our end product will be a strategic plan that will help guide how we develop and support our learners over the next several years. As a set of aspirational goals, the plan will inform future decisions that will impact all levels of our district. We will keep the community updated on planning activities.

Now, we have a presentation by our district's architects. The team from LAN Associates will share the results of the latest Building Condition Surveys which will be critical for facilities planning.